

The Two Georges: George Washington and George Mason

Fairfax County was home to two extraordinary men who played significant roles in the national founding. No examination of the history of Fairfax County would be complete without a review of significant events in the lives of George Washington and George Mason. As a quick bellringer ask students to identify all of the uses of George Mason's name found in the community today. [GM University, GM High School, GM Drive, GM Bank, GM Library]. Repeat the process using Washington. [national capital, state, cities, counties, towns, etc]

George Washington

1732	born in Westmoreland County, Virginia
1752	upon the death of a brother inherits Mount Vernon estate
1755	becomes commander-in-chief of Virginia's militia
1759	marries Martha Custis one of the richest women in Virginia
1775-1781	commander of the Continental Army
1787	presides over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
1789-1797	unanimous choice of the Electoral College to be president
1799	dies at Mount Vernon



George Mason

1725	born at Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia
1746	assumes control of Gunston Hall plantation
1758-1761	represents Fairfax County in Virginia's House of Burgesses
1765-1766	active in the Stamp Act protests
1774	co-authors <i>Fairfax Resolves</i> with George Washington
1776	writes the <i>Virginia Declaration of Rights</i> and the <i>Virginia Constitution</i>
1787	represents Virginia at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia; refuses to sign the <i>Constitution</i> because it lacks a bill of rights
1792	dies at Gunston Hall

